

In the Claims

1 (currently amended). A method for producing *Pasteuria* endospores *in vitro*, said method comprising introducing *Pasteuria* into a growth medium, wherein said growth medium comprises a microorganism or a chemical compound produced by a microorganism, wherein said microorganism is found in association with ~~nematode~~-nematodes and wherein said microorganism has all the identifying characteristics of ATCC PTA-2324; wherein said method comprises growing the *Pasteuria* in said growth medium, and obtaining said endospores.

2-4 (previously cancelled).

5 (currently cancelled).

6-8 (previously cancelled).

9. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said growth medium does not comprise an antibiotic.

10. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said growing step is carried out without stirring.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein a compound selected from the group consisting of manganese sulfate and lipids is added to induce the production of endospores.

12-27 (withdrawn).

28 (currently cancelled).

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29-30 (previously cancelled).

31 (currently cancelled).

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